



• INFO memo - June 11, 2004

City of Broken Arrow
P.O. Box 610
Broken Arrow, OK 74013
www.brokenarrowok.gov

Wayne Bishop, Communications Coordinator
Phone: 259-8277 Fax: 251-6642

BA Police Team Cops Top Relay for Life Honors

Law and order prevailed at the 2004 Relay for Life at Broken Arrow's South Intermediate High School stadium, but it took quite a little "disorderly conduct" for that to happen.

The City's "Cops for a Cure" entry in the American Cancer Society's fundraising event for cancer research was the smallest in numbers at the June 4-5 Relay. But the 18 members who participated piled up the most number of points among the teams at South – 135. Two teams were tied for second with 100 points.

The ACS Relay for Life website reports that in May 1985, Dr. Gordy Klatt, a colorectal surgeon and avid runner, took the first step of his 24-hour walk/run around a track in Tacoma, Washington. He clocked 83 miles, raising \$27,000 to support the American Cancer Society. The following year, 220 supporters on 19 teams joined Dr. Klatt in this overnight event, and the American Cancer Society Relay For Life was born. Over the last 18 years, Relay For Life has spread to 3,800 communities in the United States and eight foreign countries. What began as one man's statement in the fight against cancer has led to the development of a worldwide event to help banish cancer.

Of the 29 who signed up for the Cops for a Cure team, 18 were there for the all-nighter. Lisa Smith, one of the coordinators of the team, reports that eight "were still standing" at dawn. Each team has to keep at least one member on the track at all times.

One of the emotional moments for the team came when police officer John Turner pinned a "survivor pin" on his 3-year-old daughter Dylinn. But, then, the Relay for Life is full of emotional moments.

On the lighter side, Smith said that Capt. Heath Arning was dressed as a woman for some events, and Arning and Greg Sipes and Mike Shaw were taught how to be cheerleaders. Team members wore inmate jump suits, cuffed themselves together, made a Statue of Liberty costume out of newspaper and masking tape, ate a snack food from the toes of Beth Shaw and passed rubber chickens between their knees.

“We had a blast and laughed ourselves silly,” said Smith. “I am so proud to be a part of a team that took so much pride in our department and was willing to ‘go the distance’ for a great cause. We have memories we will never forget.”

Dead Bird Calls Beginning

Residents of Broken Arrow are starting to call the City’s Action Center with reports of dead birds in their yards. The City reminds residents that it does not send anyone out to pick up the dead birds. That is a program coordinated by the Tulsa County Health Department in its fight against the West Nile Virus.

The City is doing its part by continuing its spraying program to kill mosquito larvae and pupa in areas where there is standing water. Spraying is done overnight, and can be increased in areas where problems are reported. Residents with worsening infestations of mosquitoes should call the Action Center at 258-3587, leaving a recorded message with information.

Tulsa City-County Health Department’s Dead Bird Hotline number is 595-4344. Callers there will receive information on how to make their report. The West Nile virus is transmitted from birds to the mosquito, and then to humans, horses and some other animals. Statistics from the Health Department show that only about one in 150 of those infected with the virus will develop a serious illness.

The Health Department will make random tests of only crows, blue jays, cardinals, hawks, owls and eagles.

Swim Lessons Underway

Although rainy weather has put a damper on some of the City’s Learn to Swim classes, the first of the two-week sessions got underway this past Monday (June 7), and will conclude next Thursday (June 17). The second round of classes will begin Monday, June 21.

Krystal Ridenour, Director of Registration for the program, reports that more than 800 children were signed up for the lessons, which will continue through the end of July.

Enrollment will continue through the summer, as long as openings are available. Cost of the classes is \$40. They consist of four 40-minute sessions each week for two weeks. Classes for infants and the younger children are 30 minutes long. New classes will begin June 21, July 5 and July 19.

There are classes for all levels of swimmers, with instruction by Red Cross trained personnel. To register, go to the office at the Community Center in Central Park (1500 S. Main).

Concerts in the Park Continue

The threat of storms in the area caused promoters to move the second of the Tuesday Concerts in the Park indoors, to North Intermediate’s auditorium. Still, a crowd of nearly 500 attended to listen to jazz musicians.

The concerts, a cooperative effort between the City Parks & Recreation Department and the Broken Arrow Arts & Humanities Council, will continue this Tuesday, June 15, in Central, featuring the Starlight Band.

These concerts begin at 6:30 p.m. and are held in the area just south of the tennis courts and west of the Family Aquatic Center. There is no cost of admission. Some soft drinks and food will be available through vendors. Spectators may bring their own chairs, blankets, etc., but no alcoholic beverages are permitted.

In addition to those concerts, there will be a new event at Central Park this year: the Heritage Bluegrass Festival on June 19.

The Starlight Band comes to the mobile Park stage (Showmobile) on June 15, and the following Tuesday will feature the Smith Brothers and their renditions of rock and roll from the 60s and 70s.

The final Tuesday in June will highlight Bluegrass music.

The Heritage Bluegrass Festival will run from 12 noon to 10 p.m. on Saturday, June 19, and is also free and open to the public. It's presented by the Arts & Humanities Council, Harmony House Guitars and the BA Parks Department.

Included among the performers will be Spring Street, Cedar Hill, Nicole Brand & Friends, Goldrush Bluegrass Co., Heartland Express, IIIrd Generation and Arbuckles. Sound is provided by Randy Keisler.

Police Department Program Featured Nationally

An article written by Broken Arrow Chief of Police Todd Wuestewald and Det. Gayla Adcock has been printed in the national publication of the U.S. Department of Justice and Community Policing Consortium.

The article focused on the efforts made by the BAPD in the fight against meth labs, in particular the education of area businesses on "red flags" about over-the-counter items that can be used in the manufacture of meth.

Wuestewald reports that the article is also available on-line at www.communitypolicing.org/magazine/pd/Links_504.pdf.

In an unrelated honor, the BAPD was awarded for its website. In a letter to Tim Hirsch, who created and manages the website (www.bapolice.org), Wuestewald told Hirsch: "Tim, outstanding! This is entirely due to your efforts, and you are to be commended."

Hirsch was notified by a law enforcement website (copseek.com) of the award, based on "outstanding workmanship, design, originality, useful content and creativity."

The recently updated police website contains information on how to obtain police reports, results of the Citizen's Crime Survey, identity theft and fraud protection, and even details on how citizens can be fingerprinted for job applications.

Capt. Paul Kroutter reports that in the near future the website will include a crime mapping link, where residents can view what types of crime is occurring in their neighborhoods, where known meth labs have been reported and where registered sex offenders live.

Concessions Now Available at FAC

Hot dogs, nachos and other foods are now available at Broken Arrow's Family Aquatic Center in Central Park. Parks & Recreation Director Scott Esmond pointed out that the concessions are just one more step in making the center even more "user friendly."

"With the opening of the Country Aire pool this summer, some of the load has been lifted from the FAC," said Esmond. "But we're still having good crowds, even with the rainy weather."

The concessions stand is located on the north end of the office area inside the FAC, near the tables and chairs.

Summer Volleyball Leagues Forming

Melissa Parker of the Broken Arrow Parks & Recreation Department has distributed information on the registration for Summer Volleyball Leagues at the Community Center.

The league begins July 1, with registration deadline of June 30. Power leagues begin June 28.

The 8-week program will have a team limit of 10 per division (with the exception of Monday night Power Leagues). First-place prizes will be given to the final tournament winners.

Co-ed Intermediate 1 teams play on Thursday nights and the cost per team is \$195. The Organizational League teams play Thursday night as well, also with a cost of \$195. Both will have referees provided.

For information call 259-8438 or come by the Community Center in Central Park (1500 S. Main).